

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, lines 14-17 as follows:

Y is independently selected from ~~-C(=O)-R-CO₂Z, -C(C=O)-R-COG~~ -C(=O)-R-COG, hydrogen, carboxyalkyl, acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for each occurrence, provided that at least 1 % of Y groups on said polymer are -C(=O)-R-CO₂Z or ~~-C(C=O)-R-COG~~ -C(=O)-R-COG;

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 7-10 as follows:

Y is independently selected from ~~-C(=O)-R-CO₂Z, -C(C=O)-R-COG~~ -C(=O)-R-COG, hydrogen, carboxyalkyl, acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for each occurrence, provided that at least 1 % of Y groups on said polymer are -C(=O)-R-CO₂Z or ~~-C(C=O)-R-COG~~ -C(=O)-R-COG;